

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A modular body for a vehicle having a chassis separate from the modular body, the modular body comprising:
a first module having a first B-pillar interface, the first module having an underbody portion and being configured to assemble on the chassis; and
a second module having a second B-pillar interface, the second module having an underbody portion and being configured to assemble on the chassis;
wherein the first and second modules are joined at the first and second B-pillar interfaces defining a B-pillar thereat, the B-pillar defining a separation between passenger compartments.
2. (currently amended) The modular body of Claim 1, wherein:
the first module includes two side portions ~~and an underbody portion~~;
the second module includes two side portions ~~and an underbody portion~~; and
the underbody portions of the first and second modules make up an underbody portion of the vehicle.
3. (original) The modular body of Claim 2, wherein:
the first module includes a top portion; and
the second module includes a top portion.
4. (currently amended) The modular body of Claim 1, wherein the second module further includes a third B-pillar interface, and further comprising:

a third module having a fourth B-pillar interface, the third module being configured to assemble on the chassis;

wherein the second and third modules are joined at the third and fourth B-pillar interfaces defining a second B-pillar thereat, the second B-pillar defining a separation between passenger compartments.

5. (original) The modular body of Claim 1, wherein the first B-pillar interface is outboard of the second B-pillar interface.

6. (original) The modular body of Claim 1, wherein the first and second B-pillar interfaces are slidably engaged with each other.

7. (original) The modular body of Claim 6, further comprising a weld at the B-pillar interfaces.

8. (currently amended) A modular body for a vehicle having a chassis separate from the modular body, the modular body comprising:

a first module defining a first passenger compartment and having a first B-pillar interface, the first module having an underbody portion and being configured to assemble on the chassis; and

a second module defining a second passenger compartment and having a second B-pillar interface, the second module having an underbody portion being configured to assemble on the chassis;

wherein the first B-pillar interface is disposed proximate the second B-pillar interface defining a B-pillar thereat, the B-pillar defining a separation between the first and second passenger compartments.

9. (currently amended) The modular body of Claim 8, further comprising:

a complete underbody made up from ~~an~~ the underbody portion of the first module and ~~an~~ the underbody portion of the second module. [[;]]

10. (currently amended) The modular body of Claim 8, wherein the first module has a first A-pillar interface, and further comprising:

a third module defining an engine compartment and having a second A-pillar interface, the third module being configured to assemble on the chassis;

wherein the first A-pillar interface is disposed proximate the second A-pillar interface defining an A-pillar thereat.

11. (currently amended) The modular body of Claim 10, wherein the second module has a first C-pillar interface, and further comprising:

a fourth module defining a storage compartment and having a second C-pillar interface, the fourth module being configured to assemble on the chassis;

wherein the first C-pillar interface is disposed proximate the second C-pillar interface defining a C-pillar thereat.

12. (original) The modular body of Claim 11, further comprising a weld at the A-pillar, the B-pillar, the C-pillar, or any combination thereof comprising at least one of the foregoing pillars.

13. (currently amended) A method for assembling a vehicle body for a vehicle having a chassis separate from the body, the method comprising:

engaging a first module having a first B-pillar interface with a second module having a second B-pillar interface such that the first and second B-pillar interfaces are disposed proximate each other, the first module having an underbody portion and defining a first passenger compartment, the second module having an underbody portion and defining a second passenger compartment; and

joining together the first and second B-pillar interfaces defining a B-pillar thereat.

14. (original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the joining comprises at least one of mechanical, adhesive, adhesive-mechanical, metallurgical, and adhesive-metallurgical bonding.

15. (original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the first module includes a first A-pillar interface, and further comprising:

engaging a third module having a second A-pillar interface with the first module such that the first and second A-pillar interfaces are disposed proximate each other, the third module defining an engine compartment; and

joining together the first and second A-pillar interfaces defining an A-pillar thereat.

16. (original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the second module includes a first C-pillar interface, and further comprising:

engaging a fourth module having a second C-pillar interface with the second module such that the first and second C-pillar interfaces are disposed proximate each other, the fourth module defining a storage compartment; and

joining together the first and second C-pillar interfaces defining a C-pillar thereat.

17. (original) The method of Claim 16, wherein the joining together the A-pillar and the C-pillar interfaces comprises at least one of mechanical, adhesive, adhesive-mechanical, metallurgical, and adhesive-metallurgical bonding.

18. (original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the joining comprises slidably engaging the first and second B-pillar interfaces with each other.

19. (new) A vehicle, comprising:
a chassis; and

a modular body structurally distinct from the chassis, the modular body being disposed on the chassis;

wherein the modular body comprises:

a first module having a first B-pillar interface, the first module having two side portions and an underbody portion; and

a second module having a second B-pillar interface, the second module having two side portions and an underbody portion;

wherein the first and second modules are joined at the first and second B-pillar interfaces defining a B-pillar thereat, the B-pillar defining a separation between passenger compartments;

wherein the underbody portions of the first and second modules make up an underbody portion of the vehicle that is disposed on the chassis.